(b) the progress achieved by the State in setting up of the Agencies at the grass root level?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Respective Forest Divisions have been advised by the Kerala State Forest Department to constitute the Forest Protection Committee, which are the primary constituents of Forest Development Agencies.

Sanctuaries as National Parks in Andhra Pradesh

1362. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to declare sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh as National Parks;

(b) if so, the sanctuaries selected in the State for such upgradation;

(c) the time schedule for completing the formalities;

(d) whether the State Government has made any other suggestions in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The State Governments are competent to set up national parks and sanctuaries in accordance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Diseases due to pollution

†1363. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air in metro cities/cities/towns has not only become polluted but poisonous also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that not only common men, but neo-natal children have been found to be suffering from heart ailments; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.